

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 CU-04 IO-13 RSR-01 /106 W

----- 118292

R 181400Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2864

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0595

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL FOLLOWING DEC. 31, 1973

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: MOVE TO HOLD NATIONAL URBAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE

1. AT A MEETING IN SOWETO JULY 15 REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY SOME 200 LEADING MEMBERS OF LOCAL AFRICAN COMMUNITY DECISION REACHED THAT ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICANS (ASSECA) SHOULD CONVENE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF URBAN AFRICANS SEPT 1-2. STATED OBJECTIVE WAS TO FORMULATE JOINT REPRESENTATIVE APPRAISAL OF INTERESTS AND AIMS OF URBAN AFRICANS FOR PRESENTATION TO GOVERNMENT.

2. MEETING HELD AS RESULT OF CALL BY ASSECA PRESIDENT M.T. MOERANE, WHO STATED THAT TAKEOVER OF ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS FROM JOHANNESBURG AND OTHER WEST RAND CITY COUNCILS BY NEW WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD JULY 1 AND INDICATION GIVEN BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION JANSON THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH URBAN AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THEIR AFFAIRS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR URBAN AFRICAN COMMUNITY TO FORMULATE ITS INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS MORE CLEARLY. MOERANE TOLD CONGEN FRANKLY THAT THIS WAS A "KITE FLYING" INITIATIVE AND THAT HE HAD NOT REALLY THOUGHT OUT PURPOSE OR THRUST OF

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MEETING IN ANY DETAIL. AS THINGS WORKED OUT, MEETING APPARENTLY

PRODUCED ONLY GENERAL STATEMENTS ON STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF URBAN AFRICANS UNDER SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM AND DECISION TO HOLD SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE. NO CONSENSUS WAS FORMULATED, AND MOERANE TOLD CONGEN THERE NO PROSPECT OF SEEKING MEETING WITH JANSON OR WEST RAND BANTU ADMINISTRATION BOARD CHAIRMAN IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. ACCORDING TO MOERANE, VENUE OF NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL PROBABLY BE BLOEMFONTEIN. COMMENT: JUDGING BY DISCOURAGINGLY LACK-LUSTER, INEFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF ASSECA DURING PAST THREE YEARS, DISUNITY AND IN-FIGHTING IN AFRICAN COMMUNITY, AND LACK OF GENERAL SUPPORT FOR ASSECA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, CONGEN SUSPECTS LITTLE WILL EMERGE FROM CONVENTION EXCEPT GENERAL RESTATEMENT OF URBAN AFRICAN GRIEVANCES AND ASPIRATIONS.

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